(d) what action has been taken by the Central Government to stop illegal cutting of trees in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Government is aware of illegal felling of forest trees in the country.

(b) Whenever any collusion of forest or Revenue Department, staff in the illicit cutting and smuggling of trees comes to notice, the State and Union Territory Governments whose employees these staff are, take action against the erring staff.

(c) Figures of such damage are not maintained.

(d) Following guidlines have been issued to the State Governments/Union Territories for stopping illegal felling of forests:—

1. Checking illicit felling of trees and removal of forest produce.

2. Enforcement of the provision of the Indian Forest Act.

3. Providing deterrent punishment to the offenders.

4. Programme for Wasteland Development.

5. Strengthening of Forest Protection Forces.

6. Control of shifting cultivation.

7. Stricter control on functioning of saw and veneer mills.

8. Increase of protected areas like Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks.

9. Closure of vulnerable forest areas to grazing.

10. Promotion of use of alternative fuel to reduce pressure on forests on account of firewood extraction.

11. Substitution of wood in industries, railways and other user.

12. Elimination of contractors.

In addition, the Central Government has introduced a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructure, for protection of forests from biotic interference, under which funds are provided to the State Governments on a shared basis, to prevent illegal exploitation of forests.

Purchase of bullet-proof jackets for VIPs

410. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bullet-proof jackets worth Rs. 1.4 crores are proposed to be purchased for security of VIPs;

(b) if so, what are the details of the foreign firms from which these bullet-proof jackets are proposed to be purchased and the amount of foreign exchange involved; and

(c) whether it has been ensured that the samples of the jackets to be imported have been thoroughly checked to avoid purchase of sub-standard material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. However, it is porposed to pur-

chase bullet-proof jackets to meet the minimum essential requirements of States and U.T. administrations for their police personnel deployed on high risk duties.

(b) The purchase is to be made by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals. The amount of Foreign Exchange involved would vary according to the size, quality and other specifications of the jackets and hence it would not be possible to indicate the amount of Foreign Exchange involved at this stage.

(c) Yes Sir.

बेरोजगार दृष्टिहीनों और विकलांगों को रोजगार

411. **श्री सुनील कुमार पट्टनायक :** क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार बेरोजगार दृष्टिहीन और विकलांग व्यक्तियों को तत्काल रोजगार प्रदान कराने के किसी प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) क्या उन्हें प्राथमिकता के आधार पर रोजगार देने तथा इसके लिए समय सीमा निर्धारित किए जाने के संबंध में कोई शिकायत सरकार को जानकारी में आई है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) से (ग) नेत्रहीनों सहित विकलांग व्यक्तियों के रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अनेक उपाय किये गए हैं। इन उपायों में सरकारी सेवा में भरती के लिए वर्ग "ग" तथा "घ" पदों पर नौकरियों का आरक्षण, आयु में छूट और चिकित्सा स्तरों में शिथिलता शामिल है।

Investments in Electronics Free Export Zones

412. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state,:

(a) what is the total investment made so far in Elecronics Free Export Zones in the country during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) what are the details of exports made from such Zones during the last two years, yearwise;

(c) what is the net foreign exchange earned thereby during the above period; and

(d) what efforts are being made to boost exports from these zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The only Electronics Export Processing Zone in the country is situated at Santa Cruz, Bombay. The Central Government invests in the creation of the requisite infrastructure in this Zone. The details of this investment during the last three years are as under:-

1984-85 . . .	Rs. 230 lakhs
1985-86 . . .	Rs. 529 lakhs
1986-87 . . .	Rs. 162 lakhs

(b) and (c) The value of exports made from the Santa Cruz Export Processing Zone (SCEPZ) and the net foreign exchange earned during the last two years are as follows:

Year	Value of exports	Net foreign exchange earning
1985-86	Rs. 84·49 crores	Rs. 29·91 crores
1986-87	Rs. 102·39 crores	*Rs. 25·58 crores

*(Up to the end of February, 1987)